

Places Where We Gather, Play, and Learn



Cooperation of schools and library officials to help children and adults learn and grow in conjunction with using land for parks and community centers, where intergenerational activities can bring people together, is a wonderful undertaking, and I am proud to be a part of this project. The economic development and the interest of business in this endeavor shows that all factions of a neighborhood can work together to hopefully leave a better community for future generations.

— Edith S. Speert, resident, the Promenade Condominiums

This chapter of the Northeast Inner Loop Neighborhood Plan focuses on the neighborhood's goals, objectives and action steps for expanding, enhancing and maintaining parks, developing a community center and recreational programs, improving, expanding and sharing the resources and programs of the schools and libraries, and promoting a clean, safe, aesthetically pleasing environment.

The goals, objectives, action steps, timelines, lead partners, proposed partnerships and proposed funding sources were developed by Citizen Work Group members who were assisted by city staff and other agency representatives (see appendix B).

Lead partners are groups who have volunteers to begin the work of developing the partnerships necessary to implement the action steps. The Lead Partners will serve as coordinators to bring together all of the groups needed to achieve the proposed action. An initial listing of these groups is included under proposed partnerships. The community also identified potential funding sources for their action steps. The community can approach these funding sources once the work of coordination is complete.

Goal 4: Parks, Community Facilities, and Recreational Programs:

Expand, enhance and maintain parks, community facilities, and recreational programs to meet the needs of present and future residents of the Northeast Inner Loop planning area.

Objective 4.1: Park Space Acquisition and Development

Acquire and develop land to serve as park, open, or green space.

Action Steps:

4.1.1 Investigate possibility of acquiring and maintaining a portion of the vacant land at Vandiver and Byrnes for use as a City maintained neighborhood park.

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
- Lead Partners: Wilshire Terrace and Terrell Heights neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: Property owners, COSA Parks and Recreation Department
- Proposed Funding Sources: COSA Parks and Recreation Dept., Terrell Plaza Shopping Center businesses, and shopping centers on Austin Highway.

4.1.2 Explore possibility of the neighborhood(s) acquiring a portion of the vacant property at 1258 Austin Highway (Austin Highway and Vandiver) for use as neighborhood maintained park and/or a passive use greenspace to connect the Austin Highway commercial corridor to residential areas off Vandiver.

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
- Lead Partners: Wilshire Terrace and Terrell Heights neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: Commercial Real Estate Services, Rags Car Wash and Kentucky Fried Chicken locations on Austin Highway. Terrell Plaza Shopping Center businesses and shopping centers on Austin Highway.



*Park playground
Champaign, Illinois*



*Pavillion in Prairie Park
Urbana, Illinois*

- Proposed Funding Sources: Businesses in the area, potential teaming with concessionaire, City Council discretionary funds, COSA Neighborhood Improvement Challenge Program.

4.1.3 Explore the possibility of working with Bexar Appraisal District to acquire land for “back taxes” in order to develop feasible, strategically located neighborhood parks, with a neighborhood adopt-a-park arrangement as a viable operation option.

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years) and ongoing
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: Bexar Appraisal District, COSA Parks and Recreation Dept.
- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal



*Playground, Landa Library
San Antonio, Texas*

4.1.4 Encourage active participation on the part of local neighborhoods in the development of the 2004 City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation System Master Plan.

- Timeline: Mid (3-5 years)
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation Dept., area businesses
- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal



*Central Park
Austin, Texas*

4.1.5 Identify and consult other neighborhoods in the city/county who have independently obtained, developed, and maintained park spaces for their community to learn from their experiences.

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: San Antonio neighborhood associations, Bexar County, COSA Parks and Recreation, Neighborhood Resource Center



*Community Gardens
Urbana, Illinois*

- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

4.1.6 Initiate dialogue with Councilperson to advocate for more neighborhood parks in the planning area.

- Timeline: Immediate (6 months) and ongoing
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: City Councilperson
- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

4.1.7 Educate local business owners along major commercial corridors such as Austin Highway about the benefits of having parks in the vicinity.

- Identify local citizen with public relations and/or graphics skills to assist in the development of a brochure and/or “handout” that draws on examples of successful local park creation initiatives.
 - Identify potential park sites in the area, and market the idea strategically to businesses located within geographic range of the proposed park(s).
- Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: Local businesses
- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal



*Linear park
Jacksonville, Florida*

Objective 4.2: Park Maintenance and Improvements

Develop new amenities in existing parks, and ensure that existing parks remain clean, safe, and well maintained.

Action Steps:

4.2.1 Improve pedestrian access to existing parks.

- Coordinate effort to improve pedestrian access, including hike and bike trails, between Northwood Park and Garner Middle School (see Objective 5.1)
- Work with the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Bexar County to improve pedestrian access between MacArthur Park and the neighborhoods on



*Northwood Park and drainage area,
Northwood neighborhood*

the other side of IH-410.

- Identify other parks that need stop signs, crosswalks, sidewalks, etc.
- Work with COSA Public Works and City Council person to encourage improvements
 - Timeline: Mid (3-5 years) to Long (6+ years)
 - Lead Partners: : Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights, and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
 - Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation Dept., COSA Public Works Dept., Traffic and Engineering Division, Bexar County, MPO
 - Proposed Funding Sources: COSA Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP), COSA Neighborhood Access and Mobility Fund, MPO, COSA Planning Department Neighborhood Improvement Challenge Program

Central Park



Austin, Texas

4.2.2 Establish a base of volunteers to assist in the maintenance of COSA owned parks in the planning area.

- Identify parks that need maintenance and canvas businesses within a two-mile radius to solicit volunteer assistance.
- Identify existing and establish new working relationships with area community service and volunteer groups willing to assist in park maintenance.
- Maintain neighborhood associations volunteer list.
 - Timeline: Short (1-2 years) and ongoing
 - Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights, and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
 - Proposed Partnerships: Community and Volunteer Groups, area businesses
 - Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

4.2.3 Advocate for more parks and better maintenance of existing parks in the Northeast Inner Loop planning area, including more trees, landscaping and amenities in existing parks.

- Timeline: Immediate (6 months) and ongoing
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights, and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: City Councilperson(s)



*Scates Park
Terrell Heights neighborhood*

Basketball court*Dorrie Miller Center**Garner Middle School*

- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

4.2.4 Establish periodic communication with the City to discuss the status of current capital improvement projects for parks to ensure completion.

- Work with COSA Parks and Recreation Dept., and COSA Public Works Departments to monitor completion and obtain future project listings (location, project details, completion dates, funding sources, etc.)
- Timeline: Short (1-2 years) and ongoing
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation Dept., COSA Public Works Dept.
- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

Objective 4.3: Community Facilities

Acquisition and Development

Secure and develop a community facility in the Northeast Inner Loop planning area to be used for gatherings, meetings, or recreational activities.

Action Steps:

4.3.1 Establish formal use of Oakwell Public Library and Garner Middle School facilities as community centers (see objective 5.1).

- Formalize current community use of running track and sports facilities.
- Advertise existing, and create new, city/district youth programs offered at Garner Middle School.
- Establish and inform citizens of available community meeting spaces in both structures.
- Timeline: Mid (3-5 years)
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations, Parent Teacher Association(s)
- Proposed Partnerships: COSA Library Dept., COSA Dept. of Intergovernmental Relations, COSA Parks and Recreation Dept., COSA Dept. of Community Initiatives, Northeast Independ-

ent School District

- Proposed Funding Sources: School Districts
Funds/Bonds, City General Obligation Bonds

4.3.2 Research private properties in the area that could be leased for use as a community center.

- Investigate potential locations for a community center on Austin Highway in the planning area. Work with business owners on Austin Highway to discuss potential uses.
- Explore the idea of using Southwest Winners Foundation, Inc. as a potential community center location.
- If the location has a kitchen/dining facility to accommodate 100 people, it could be used for community events and a senior nutrition program.
 - Timeline: Short (1-2 years) and ongoing
 - Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
 - Proposed Partnerships: Area businesses, Southwest Winners Foundation, Inc., area churches
 - Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal



*Dawson Community Center
East Commerce Street*

4.3.3 Increase awareness of recreational facilities available for public use at local schools in the Northeast Inner Loop planning area.

- Create a committee to survey recreational facilities and/or compile a listing from school district contacts.
- Publish the survey information in neighborhood association newsletter(s) or have it mailed from school districts to neighborhood associations.
 - Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
 - Lead Partners: Neighborhood Implementation Team, Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
 - Proposed Partnerships: Alamo Heights School District, Northeast Independent School District, Parent Teacher Association(s)
 - Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal



*Water play area in park.
Champaign, Illinois*



*Pool at Silver Dollar Motel,
Austin Highway*

4.3.4 Establish a local public swimming pool for community use.

- Form a committee to investigate acquiring one of the old hotels on Austin Highway. (i.e. Silver Dollar) for use as a public swimming pool, and/or explore public private ventures with other area businesses for running and maintaining a local swimming pool (example includes the Alamo Heights Swimming Pool operated by Rick Shaw).

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years) to Mid (3-5 years)
- Lead Partners: Swimming Pool Committee, Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: Area businesses, City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department
- Proposed Funding Sources: Area businesses

Objective 4.4: Recreational and Community programs

Attract and create new recreational and community programs in the Northeast Inner Loop planning area, and increase participation and awareness of existing programs.

Action Steps:

4.4.1 Collect, organize, and disseminate information related to existing recreational and community programs offered in the Northeast Inner Loop planning area.

- Create a committee to work with local school districts and the COSA Community Initiatives, Parks and Recreation, Library, and Cultural Affairs Departments to compile inventory of existing programs in the area.
- Disseminate information concerning location and times of programs offered in the Northeast Inner Loop planning area through neighborhood newsletters.
 - Timeline: Short (1-2 years)

- Lead Partners: Neighborhood Implementation Team, Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation Dept., COSA Community Initiatives Dept., COSA Library Dept., COSA Office of Cultural Affairs
- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

4.4.2 Encourage teaming and cooperation between area school districts, COSA, and other entities that offer community programs in the planning area in order to avoid competition/overlap between programs.

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
- Lead Partners: Parent Teacher Association(s), Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: Alamo Heights Independent School District, Northeast Independent School District, COSA, area churches, area businesses
- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

4.4.3 Work with the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department to discuss strategies for reversing low participation rates in the Northeast Inner Loop planning area, and to reinstate summer youth program(s).

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
- Lead Partners: Neighborhood Implementation Team, Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation Dept
- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

4.4.4 Advocate for more community and adult education programs in the Northeast Inner Loop planning area to be held earlier in the evening in order to capture the senior citizen market. See Appendix H for a list of COSA Learning and Leadership Development Centers.

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell

Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations

- Proposed Partnerships: Friends of Oakwell Library, McNay Art Museum, Area Schools, Oakwell Public Library
- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

Goal 5: Schools and Libraries

Improve, expand and share the resources and programs offered by the schools and libraries in the Northeast Inner Loop planning area.

Objective 5.1: Garner Middle School and Oakwell Public Library

Improve physical access between Garner Middle School and Oakwell Public Library to aid in the eventual establishment of a community recreational space that is pedestrian amenable.

Action Steps:

5.1.1 Begin substantive discussions between the Northeast Independent School District, the City of San Antonio, and citizens to create a master plan associated with desired physical changes.

- Itemize desired physical changes and capital improvement projects related to sidewalk widening, landscaping, improved pedestrian and automobile access, improved building access, increased space and storage needs, design for security, etc.
- Investigate and discuss project development costs, timelines, funding sources, etc. associated with necessary changes.

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
- Lead Partners: Neighborhood Implementation Team, neighborhood associations, Parent Teacher Association(s), COSA Library Dept.,
- Proposed Partnerships: Northeast Independent School District, COSA Public Works Dept., COSA Dept. of Intergovernmental Relations



Oakwell Library



Garner Middle School

- Proposed Funding Sources: School district funds and/or bonds, City of San Antonio, COSA Neighborhood Accessibility and Mobility Program. COSA Planning Department Neighborhood Improvement Challenge Program

Objective 5.2: Library Services

Improve awareness, patronage, and access to the facilities and resources offered by the area libraries.

Action Steps:

5.2.1 Increase physical and “virtual” sharing of the resources offered by the schools, and the City of San Antonio Public Library system.

- In conjunction with Objective 5.1: improve pedestrian mobility and parking access, create electronic/network linkages, and facilitate sharing of library resources and information between Oakwell Library and Garner Middle School Library
 - Timeline: Short (1-2 years) to Mid (3-5 years)
 - Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
 - Proposed Partnerships: Alamo Heights School District, Northeast Independent School District, COSA Library Dept.
 - Proposed Funding Sources: School District Bonds / Funds, COSA General Fund, COSA Library Department

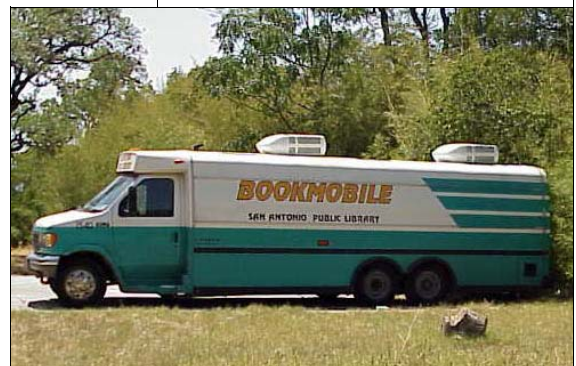
5.2.2. Explore future possibility of increasing circulation and patronage of the COSA Book Mobile service.

- Publish times and location of service in neighborhood association newsletter(s).
 - Timeline: Short (1-2 years) and on-going
 - Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
 - Proposed Partnerships: COSA Library Dept.

Interior of Oakwell Library



Bookmobile



- Proposed Funding Sources: COSA General Fund, area businesses

5.2.3. Explore the possibility of developing public-private partnerships or “storefront libraries” with businesses.

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: Area businesses
- Proposed Funding Sources: Area businesses

5.2.4 Encourage citizens in the planning area to participate in the public input component of the next City of San Antonio Library System Master Plan process.

- Organize ideas and suggestions on neighborhood library resources.
- Publish dates and locations of public input meetings in NA newsletters.
 - Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
 - Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
 - Proposed Partnerships: COSA Public Library Dept.
 - Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

Goal 6: Community Safety

Establish a clean, safe, and aesthetically pleasing living environment.

Objective 6.1: Neighborhood Safety:

Promote a safe community environment based on cooperation with local policing units and neighborhood involvement.

Action Steps:

6.1.1 Encourage multi-jurisdictional coordination and cooperation between San Antonio Police Department, Alamo Heights, and Terrell Hills policing units, and COSA.

- Meet with police representatives to encourage coop-

eration in addressing problematic issues on Austin Highway, including prostitution and homelessness.

- Timeline: Immediate (6 months) and ongoing
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: San Antonio Police Department, Terrell Heights Police Department, Alamo Heights Police Department
- Proposed Funding Sources: None required

6.1.2 Although the police decentralization plans do not call for additional sub-stations, investigate possibility of establishing a police storefront office close to the area and increasing police presence/patrols.

- Identify potential location of substation or “storefront” on Austin Highway.
- Explore possibility of bicycle patrol substation to address Austin Highway area.
 - Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
 - Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
 - Proposed Partnerships: San Antonio Police Department, area businesses
 - Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

6.1.3 Establish methods for reporting criminal activity in and around neighborhoods and homes in order to address crime prevention.

- Create a Neighborhood Watch program.
- Participate in the SAPD Cellular on Patrol (COP) program.
- Collect information on crime prevention tips and/or programs and publish in neighborhood association newsletter.
- Have police representative(s) meet with neighborhood associations to discuss other citizen-based programs that can be implemented locally.
 - Timeline: Short (1-2 years) and ongoing
 - Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
 - Proposed Partnerships: San Antonio Police Department



Good Neighbor Program sign in Northwood neighborhood



SAPD Officers



Fire hydrant



- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

6.1.4 Work with the local branch of the Salvation Army, SAFFE officers, COSA Park Rangers, Department of Community Initiatives, and social service agencies to discuss options for addressing homelessness along Austin Highway and nearby vicinities.

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years) and ongoing
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: Salvation Army, SAPD SAFFE officers, COSA Parks Rangers, Department of Community Initiatives
- Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal

6.1.5 Work with the COSA Water Board and the local fire departments to analyze and determine adequacy of existing fire hydrants in the area.

- Timeline: Short (1-2 years)
- Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
- Proposed Partnerships: COSA Water Board, COSA Fire Department
- Proposed Funding Sources: COSA General Fund

6.1.6 Ensure that hazardous materials are routed outside the Northeast East Inner Loop planning area.

- Participate in the Texas Department of Transportation hazardous material routing plan for Bexar County. Contact the TxDOT local office to find details of plan, and the location and time of the summer, 2000 public hearing.
- Report illegally parked tanker trucks along IH-410 to SAPD Traffic Unit.
 - Timeline: Immediate (less than 6 months)
 - Lead Partners: Oak Park Northwood, Terrell Heights and Wilshire Terrace neighborhood associations
 - Proposed Partnerships: Texas Department of Transportation, SAPD Traffic Unit
 - Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal